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Sen. Stamas hails signing of his bill adding judgeship

LANSING — Residents of Clare and Gladwin counties will receive better access to swift, fair justice now that the governor has signed Sen. Tony Stamas' legislation that adds a judgeship to the 55th Circuit Court.

"People expect to have their cases move through the justice system in a timely way," said Stamas, R-Midland. "I'm pleased that people in the 55th Circuit now have more resources available to ensure justice is served."

The 55th Circuit Court now has only one judge but the independent, nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office recommended the court add a judge to deal with increased workload.

Circuit courts try cases involving felony crimes and lawsuits greater than \$25,000. The family division of circuit court hears cases involving divorce, paternity, adoptions, personal protection actions, and child abuse and neglect, among others.

The state pays the salary and benefits of the judge while county governments would pay for the salaries and other expenses of support staff.

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